

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 08673 01 OF 02 171808Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OPR-02 TRSE-00

FRB-01 EB-07 /066 W

----- 071750

O R 171550Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1610

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 8673

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINTT IT

SUBJECT: FIRST PRESS REACTION TO REGIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

1. ALL INITIAL PRESS REACTION FROM RIGHT TO LEFT HIGHLIGHTS
THE STRONG SHIFT TO THE LEFT IN THE REGIONAL ELECTION RESULTS,
THE SURPRISINGLY LARGE INCREASE OF THE COMMUNIST VOTE, AND THE
INEVITABLE, BUT AS YET UNCERTAIN, IMPACT THE RESULTS WILL
HAVE ON THE STABILITY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. COMMUNIST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 08673 01 OF 02 171808Z

(PCI) AND SOCIALIST (PSI) ORGANS ARE UNANIMOUS IN ATTRIBUTING

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) LOSSES TO FANFANI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN. MANY ON THE CENTER-RIGHT ARE EMPHATIC IN ATTRIBUTING PCI GAINS TO PSI AMBIVALENCE IN THE CENTER-LEFT AND ITS OPEN ATTACKS ON THE DC. OTHERS OFFER MORE COMPLEX EXPLANATIONS. THERE FOLLOWS A SAMPLING OF EDITORIAL OPINION:

2. LEADING NATIONAL CENTER-LEFT DAILY /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/:
"CERTAINLY THE YOUTH VOTE HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE. BUT IT IS NOT THE ONLY CAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED SUNDAY AND MONDAY IN ALL THE ITALIAN COMMUNES.... THE VOTE DEMONSTRATES A GENERAL DESIRE FOR CHANGE TO THE POINT OF CONSTITUTING A SORT OF APPENDIX TO THE REFERENDUM (ON DIVORCE). THE PARTY WHICH DRAWS MOST BENEFIT FROM THE SHIFT IN THE VOTE IS PRECISELY THE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH HAS PROPOSED, BY MEANS OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND ITS PROPOSAL FOR ADMINISTRATIONS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES TO THE LEFT, THE MOST RADICAL SHIFT AT ALL LEVELS.... THE DC WHICH HAS SUFFERED A DEFEAT IN THESE ELECTIONS CAN REGAIN VOTES, IF ITS LEADERS CORRECTLY INTERPRET YESTERDAY'S VOTE."

3. THE CENTER-LEFT DAILY /LA STAMPA/: "NEVERTHELESS MORE THAN THE LOSS OF VOTES BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WHICH REMAINS THE LEADING ITALIAN PARTY, THE ADVANCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY CONSTITUTES THE NEW FACT OF WHICH IT IS NOT EASY TODAY TO FORESEE ALL THE CONSEQUENCES."

"WHILE ANY POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE OF CENTER OR CENTER-RIGHT HAS DISAPPEARED, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REACTED TO THEIR VICTORY BY REPROPOSING IN SUBSTANCE A NEW COURSE WHICH SEEMS TO COINCIDE (IN WHAT FORMS REMAINS TO BE SEEN) WITH THE PROPOSAL OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. BUT CAN A DC SO OBVIOUSLY WEAKENED ACCEPT IT? IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY."

"THE SHIFT TO THE LEFT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTIC (OF THE VOTE), AND CANNOT BE IGNORED: BUT IT REMAINS WITHIN THE SYSTEM, AND DOES NOT ANNOUNCE AN ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT, NOR DOES IT IMPOSE THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE."

4. COMMUNIST DAILY /UNITA/: "THE LARGEST COMMUNIST ADVANCE IN THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC, WITH A PROFOUND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 08673 01 OF 02 171808Z

SHIFT OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN EVERY REGION AND IN COUNTLESS TOWNS: THIS IS THE MOST STRIKING RESULT OF THE REGIONAL VOTE."

"THE PCI IS THE LEADING PARTY IN ROME, MILAN, TURIN, NAPLES, GENOA, FLORENCE, BOLOGNA, VENICE, PERUGIA...."

5. LEADING SOCIALIST-ORIENTED ROME DAILY /IL MESSAGGERO/:

"SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS MUST UTILIZE THE TRUST, WON IN SO SIGNIFICANT A MEASURE...TO TRY TO FORCE THE DC, WHICH REMAINS THE STRONGEST ITALIAN PARTY, TO ENTER THE ROAD OF THE REFORMS. THERE EXIST IN THE DC DEMOCRATIC FORCES WHICH...CAN MAKE A DETERMINING CONTRIBUTION TO THE TURN WHICH THE COUNTRY DEMANDED WITH SUNDAY'S VOTE."

6. ROME COMMUNIST DAILY /PAESE SERA/: "THE COMMUNIST ADVANCE WAS IN PART FORESEEN, BUT NOT IN SUCH MEASURE.... THE OBJECTIVE (OF BECOMING THE PARTY OF RELATIVE MAJORITY) IS NOT ONLY REALISTIC, BUT PLAUSIBLE AT WHATEVER TIME EARLY POLITICAL ELECTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE."

"THE GAINS OF THE DC ON THE RIGHT...WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO COMPENSATE THE FLIGHT OF THE MASS ELECTORATE TOWARD THE WORKERS' PARTIES....TO CONTINUE ON THE LINE IMPOSED BY FANFANI, MEANS IN EFFECT TO CONTINUE IN THE PURSUIT OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ELECTORATE... AT THE END OF THIS ROAD THERE IS THE END OF TRADITIONAL ALLIANCES...WITH THE PROSPECT OF CREATING TO THE LEFT AN ALTERNATIVE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH ALREADY EMERGES PEREMPTORILY FROM THE ELECTORAL FIGURES."

"THE ONLY CERTAIN RESULT FOR THE MOMENT IS THAT WE FIND OURSELVES BEFORE A NEW SITUATION, BEFORE AN ACCELERATION OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF UNFORESEEABLE IMPLICATIONS. WE COULD ENTER AS OF TOMORROW INTO A SITUATION OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN THE LAST 25 YEARS."

7. MILAN CENTER DAILY /IL GIORNALE/: FOR THE MOMENT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. PERHAPS NOTHING. IT IS SUMMER. THE SACROSANCT VACATIONS ARE BEFORE US. VERY PROBABLY THE GOVERNMENT WILL HOLD ON, FOR THE REASON ALSO THAT ITS EXISTENCE IS HARD TO DISTINGUISH FROM ITS NON-EXISTENCE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 08673 01 OF 02 171808Z

BUT IN THE FALL IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONFRONT THE FACT THAT THE COUNTRY IS NOW SPLIT IN TWO, AND THAT BETWEEN THE OPPOSED LINES THERE IS NO LONGER THAT NO MAN'S LAND IN WHICH SO MANY GAMES, THE DELIGHT OF ETERNAL ITALIAN OPPORTUNISM, ARE POSSIBLE."

8. CENTER-RIGHT ROME DAILY /IL TEMPO/: "RESERVING THE RIGHT....

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 08673 02 OF 02 171812Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAI-01 OPR-02 FRB-01

TRSE-00 EB-07 /066 W

----- 071846

O R 171550Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1611

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 8673

.....RIGHT

TO REOPEN THE DIALOGUE WHEN THE DEFINITIVE RESULTS ARE BETTER
KNOWN, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT TO AVOID ASKING WHAT
WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ELECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION
OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION. THE REPLY IS AS EASY AS
IT IS SIMPLE: THE ELECTORAL RESULTS, WITH THE UNDENIABLE
SUCCESS OF THE PCI, RAISES A FORMIDABLE PROBLEM OF CONSCIENCE
FOR THE SOCIALISTS, WHO FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH A THE
DECISIVE CHOICE. THEY SHOULD NOW UNDERSTAND THAT, BY FIGHTING THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 08673 02 OF 02 171812Z

DC AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES FROM THE SAME POSITIONS AS THE
COMMUNISTS, THEY WORK NOT FOR THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM, BUT OF

COMMUNISM. WHAT DO THE DEMARTINOS AND MANCINIS INTEND TO DO?VOLPE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME08673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750211-0148
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750642/aaaabmlf.tel
Line Count: 224
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST PRESS REACTION TO REGIONAL ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006